Rains and floods in Kerala and Tamil Nadu

803. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the death toll, number of persons reportedly missing and damage caused to properties and crops in the recent floods caused by the torrential rains lashing Tamil Nadu and Kerala recently;

(b) whether any Central Team has gone to these floods hit States to assess the damage caused by the rains indicating the amount of immediate relief sanctioned so far by the Central Government for the people of the cyclone hit victims of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and also Pondicherry;

(c) what steps Government have taken so far for rehabilitation of flood victims in these States; and

(d) what amount of compensation has been paid by the Central Government and the State Government to the families of the deceased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The extent of damage reported by the State Government on the basis of preliminary assessments, is as follows :—

	Tamil Nadu	Kerala
(i) Human lives lost	230	56
(ii) Persons Missing	—	22
(iii) No. of houses damaged	1,43,600	11,470
(iv) Crops damaged (lakh ha.)	0.69	Being assessed

(b) No Central Team has visited the floods hit States to assess the damage. However, advance release of 4th quarterly instalment for 1992-93 and first 2 instalments for the year 1993-94 of the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 21.9375 crores have been released to Tamil Nadu State for taking up relief operations.

(c) The relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken by the State Governments include :—

(i) Opening of relief camps;

(ii) Dropping of food packets;

(iii) Gratuitous relief;

(iv) Assistance for repair/reconstruction of damaged houses.

(v) Assistance to affected farmers.

(d) Government of Tamil Nadu has made ex-gratia payment of Rs. 10,000/- in case of each death. Government of Kerala have also paid ex-gratia in case of death Rs. 25,000/- each per adult and Rs. 15,000/- for others.

Delhi Milk Scheme

804. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for increasing the price of Delhi Milk Scheme in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that Delhi Milk Scheme is still running into losses despite increase in milk prices, if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise indicating the reasons for such losses;

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce expenditure and check malpractices in Delhi Milk Scheme; and

(d) whether Government would contemplate to entrust the management of Delhi Milk Scheme to private sector keeping in view the continuous losses despite rise in the prices of Delhi Milk Scheme products, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Price increase with

effect from 1st September, 1992 of Milk supplied by Delhi Milk Scheme was necessitated on account of steep increase in the procurement price of milk, skimmed milk powder, butter oil and also increase in the cost of electricity, water, labour and other inputs.

(b) Yes, Sir. The main reason for the losses of DMS is that price increase allowed by the Government is not commensurate with the increase in costs. Provisional losses of DMS during the last three years are as follows :

1989-90—Rs. 16.51 crores

1990-91—Rs. 15.38 crores

1991-92—Rs. 35.12 crores

(c) Performance of operations in DMS is being regularly monitored with a view to economise costs and reduce expenditure. Malpractices, if any, whenever detected are severely dealt with in accordance with the established procedure.

(d) No, Sir. The objective of Delhi Milk Scheme is to supply wholesome milk and milk products to citizens of Delhi at reasonable rate and also to ensure remunerative and steady market for milk producers in and around the capital. This objective may not be achieved if the management of Delhi Milk Scheme is entrusted to private sector.

Production of Oilseeds

805. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is self-sufficient in production of oil seeds; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Planning Commission has set a target of oilseeds production at 23 million tonnes for 1996-97, the terminal year of the 8th Plan with the aim of achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds production during the year 1996-97. Oilseeds production has increased from 108.3 lakh tonnes in 1985-86 to 182.7 lakh tonnes in 1991-92. We are on our way to self-sufficiency.

Production of Wheat and Rice

806. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated production of wheat and rice this year and during the last three years;

(b) what is the procurement price and open market price for wheat and rice this year and ensuing year;

(c) since when ban on transport of foodgrains from particular zones is in force and was removed in the past;

(d) whether Government are considering removal of the ban on the movement of foodgrains;

(e) which are the areas affected by the ban of foodgrains;

(f) whether the procurement prices for wheat and rice are economical for the farmers; and

(g) what price are being paid to foreign countries for import of wheat and rice ?